

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 FEA-01 COME-00

TRSE-00 IO-13 NEA-10 /107 W

-----034255 091950Z /63

R 091220Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6222

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 799

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 1104

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MZ, NI, RH

SUBJECT: GENERAL OBASANJO'S VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE

1. SUMMARY. GENERAL OBASANJO PAID A WHIRLWIND VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE ON SEPTEMBER 3 AND 4. VISIT RECEIVED PROMINENT AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE IN LOCAL MEDIA. NO COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT AND VERY FEW DETAILS ABOUT WHAT WAS DISCUSSED HAVE EMERGED. ACCORDING TO BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICIALS HERE, NIGERIANS AND MOZAMBICANS DID DISUCSS USE OF NIGERIAN TROOPS IN A UN PEACE KEEPING FORCE IN RHODESIA. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL OBASANJO PAID A QUICK TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE ON SEPTEMBER 3 AND 4, FOR WHICH MOZAMBICANS ROLLED OUT RED CARPET. DURING VISIT OBASANJO HELD INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE OFFICIALS, PLACED A WREATH AT MOZAMBICAN HEROES MONUMENT AND WAS HOSTED AT A STATE DINNER
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ATTENDED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND AFRICAN DIPLOMATS ONLY. AT STATE BANQUET OBASANJO AND MACHEL BOTH GAVE SHORT SPEECHES PRAISING GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRIES AND COMMENTING IN USUAL TERMS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION. OBASANJO ALSO INVITED PRESIDENT MACHEL TO PAY A STATE VISIT TO NIGERIA LATER THIS YEAR. NO COMMUNIQUE WAS RELEASED AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT.

3. PRESS GAVE VISIT EXTENSIVE AND FRIENDLY PUBLICITY, NOTING NIGERIA'S LARGE SIZE AND GROWING ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE AS ONE OF WORLD'S PRINCIPAL OIL PRODUCERS. PRESS ALSO UNDERSCORED "GOOD RELATIONS" WHICH EXIST BETWEEN NIGERIA AND MOZAMBIQUE AND FACT THAT OBASANJO WAS FIRST WEST AFRICAN (NON-PORTUGUESE SPEAKING) HEAD OF STATE TO VISIT MOZAMBIQUE.

4. COMMENT. WHILE PRESS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE MAINTAINED THEIR USUAL BUTTONED-LIP MANNER ABOUT WHAT ACTUALLY TRANSPIRED AT NIGERIAN-MOZAMBIQUE MEETINGS, BRITISH EMBASSY HAS TOLD US THAT AT ONE STAGE DURING VISIT PRESIDENT MACHEL AND GENERAL OBASANJO MET ALONE WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE DEFENSE MINISTERS AND TWO OTHER AIDES TO DISCUSS USE OF NIGERIAN TROOPS IN UN PEACE KEEPING FORCE IN RHODESIA. ACCORDING TO BRITISH, MOZAMBICANS WELCOMED PROSPECT THAT NIGERIAN TROOPS MIGHT BE USED AND THAT NIGERIANS INDICATED THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO SEND TROOPS IF ASKED. TALKS BETWEEN NIGERIANS AND MOZAMBICANS SKATED LIGHTLY OVER BILATERAL ISSUES, ALTHOUGH SOME DIPLOMATS HERE (NOTABLY EGYPTIANS BRITISH AND INDIANS) ARE SPECULATING THAT MOZAMBICANS ASKED FOR ECONOMIC AID.

5. EMBASSY WILL REPORT ANY OTHER INFORMATION ON OBASANJO VISIT WHEN AVAILABLE.
CARSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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TAGS: OVIP, PDEV, MARR, MZ, NI, RH, (OBASANJO, OLUSEGUN)
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